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REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-20 were pending and considered by the Examiner. Claims 3 and 9 stand objected to. Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, 10, 13-15 and 18-20 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 14 and 20 have been amended. Claims 1-20 remain pending in the subject application.

Claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 16 and 17 have been withdrawn as being directed to a nonelected species. Upon allowance of a generic claim, these dependent claims shall be given consideration. Since generic claims are allowable as argued below, these claims are also allowable for at least the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Claim 3 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. Accordingly, claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 3 is allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grapes et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,867,235). Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Houle et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,837,306). Claims 4 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hyman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,467,814). Claims 7, 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houle et al. in view of Grapes et al. Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Houle et al. in view of Hyman et al. These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the art of record, claims 1, 14 and 20 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the applicant regards as the invention.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that heat is transferred along the fibers from the hotter areas to the colder areas as an associated device moves past the contact surface. Contrary to the invention of claim 1, Grapes et al. teach that heat enters the thermal

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plane whenever the electronic components are mounted upon the printed circuit board. Similarly, Houle et al. do not teach a heat-equalizing device that transfers heat along the fibers from the hotter areas to the colder areas as an associated device moves past the contact surface. For at least these reasons, claim 1 is not anticipated by Grapes et al. or Houle et al.

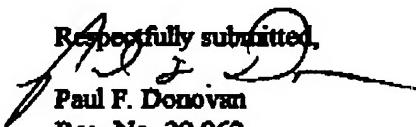
Claim 14 has been amended to include a grounding circuit electrically connected to at least one of said fibers. Grapes et al. do not provide such a device. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 14 is not anticipated by Grapes et al.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a surface coating provided along the contact surface adjacent the heated surface of the heated body. Grapes et al. do not include such a limitation. Thus, for at least this reason, claim 20 is not anticipated by Grapes et al.

The remaining claims depend from one of claims 1 and 14, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto, as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims are respectfully requested. In the event that there are any issues that can be expeditiously handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60026
(847) 657-4075

Respectfully submitted,

Paul F. Donovan
Reg. No. 39,962